

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 061218Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0571
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09107

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH, BR, GW
SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN-GERMAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: A) BRASILIA 4434; B) BONN 9076

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH ECON/COMM MIN JUNE 5
AT FOREIGN MINISTRY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERMES
CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD BEEN THE SOURCE OF THE PRESS
BRIEFING MENTIONED IN BONN'S 9076. WHILE HE HAD NOT
READ ALL OF THE REPORTING BASED ON HIS BRIEFING,
HE WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT REFERENCES TO
COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WERE HIGH-LIGHTED IN
THE PRESS WERE NOT MENTIONED BY HIM DURING HIS
BRIEFING. IN FACT HE SAID HE HAD EMPHASIZED TO THE
PRESS THAT COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS HAD NOT ENTERED
INTO OUR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE BRAZILIAN
DEAL AND THAT WE WERE CONCERNED WITH SECURITY RATHER
THAN COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE JUDGED FROM HIS
OWN PERUSAL OF THE PRESS THAT HIS GUIDANCE HAD NOT
BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PRESS.

2. HERMES EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE OVER THE FUEL WHICH
WAS BEING GIVEN TO THIS MATTER BY ALLEGED LEAKS IN
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WASHINGTON. HE SAID THE CONSEQUENCES OF ALL THIS

PUBLICITY COULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING FOR THE FRG. HE ANTICIPATED THE POSSIBILITY OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND CRITICISM OF THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT. HE THOUGHT THE OPPOSITION MIGHT WELL ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT FOR ALLOWING ITSELF TO GET INTO THIS KIND OF CONTROVERSY WITH ITS MAJOR ALLY, NOT TO MENTION THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ACCUSED OF FAILURE TO DEFEND GERMAN INTERESTS IN DEALING WITH THE NPT.

3. HE RECALLED THAT THERE HAD BEEN EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG CONCERNING THIS TRANSACTION. THE LEAKS THAT HAD OCCURRED COULD ONLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR EFFORTS TO ARRANGE FOR A SUPPLIER CONFERENCE. IF THE FRENCH WERE BROUGHT INTO THE CONTROVERSY HE DOUBTED THAT IT WOULD MAKE THE FRENCH MORE RESPONSIVE; THE CONTRARY MIGHT BE THE CASE.

4. HERMES TOLD US THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD INDEED BE SIGNED DURING THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SIGNATURE OF THE AGREEMENT COMMITTED THE FRG TO NO PARTICULAR CONTRACT. EACH CONTRACT WOULD HAVE TO BE ASSESSED ON ITS OWN MERITS AS IT IS NEGOTIATED.

5. WE MENTIONED THE PNE QUESTION RAISED IN BRASILIA'S 4434. HERMES SAID THAT THE AGREEMENT, BY ITS OWN TERMS, PRECLUDES THE USE OF ANY MATERIALS OR TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIED UNDER THE AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND THIS UNDERTAKING IS SUBJECT TO SAFEGUARDS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE FRG HAD FOLLOWED-UP IN BRASILIA EARLIER BRAZILIAN STATEMENTS ON PNES AND PRIDEFULLY POINTED TO THE FACT THAT SILVERA'S JUNE 3 STATEMENT WAS ENTIRELY IN LINE WITH FRG THINKING. THIS WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM BRASILIA'S SPECULATION THAT THE FRG PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS.
HILLENBRAND
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